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(71) Applicant:
**Mitsubishi Jidosha Kogyo Kabushiki Kaisha
Tokyo 108-8410 (JP)**

(72) Inventors:
• **OKADA, Kojiro,
Mitsubishi Jidosha Kogyo K.K.
Tokyo 108-8410 (JP)**

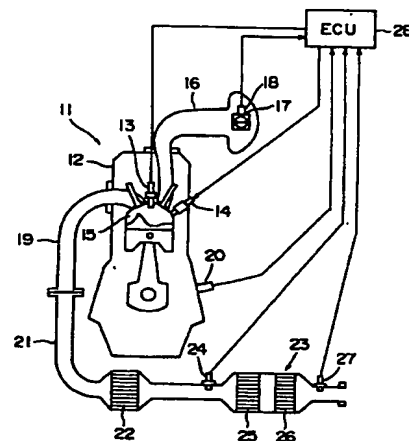
• **DOGAHARA, Takashi,
Mitsubishi Jidosha Kogyo K.K.
Tokyo 108-8410 (JP)**
• **TAMURA, Yasuki,
Mitsubishi Jidosha Kogyo K.K.
Tokyo 108-8410 (JP)**

(74) Representative:
**Strehl Schübel-Hopf & Partner
Maximilianstrasse 54
80538 München (DE)**

(54) **EXHAUST EMISSION CONTROL DEVICE OF INTERNAL COMBUSTION ENGINES**

(57) An NO_x sensor 27 detects the concentration of NO_x released from an occlusion type NO_x catalyst 25 into the atmosphere. Based on the output of the NO_x sensor 27, a total NO_x discharge A is computed. When the total NO_x discharge A reaches an NO_x emission judgment amount A₀, corresponding to an NO_x emission judgment amount designated by NO_x emission regulations, before a distance traveled C reaches a predetermined distance traveled C₀, an exhaust air-fuel ratio is changed to a rich air-fuel ratio to release NO_x from the occlusion type NO_x catalyst 25 efficiently. Then, the exhaust air-fuel ratio is changed to a stoichiometric air-fuel ratio to purify and reduce NO_x by a three-way catalyst function.

FIG. 1



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